(b) if so, what steps Government have taken or propose to take to revive the unit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALERIO): (a) and (b) The case of India Machinery Company is registered with Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) which is a quasi-judicial body and takes decisions in accordance with the provisions of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985.

Bank loans for commercial vehicles

3435. SHRI JERLIE E. TARIANG: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the terms and conditions for securing loans from the nationalised banks in Delhi for purchasing commercial vehicles like matador etc.;

(b) whether it is a fact that the rules governing the grant of such loans are very harsh and the banks ask the applicants to mortgage their immovable properties where as there is a ban by Government on the execution of these registries in Delhi if so, what action Government propose to take to ease their terms and conditions in order to avoid hardships to the applicants; and

(c) what is the number of applications received in this regard by the Punjab National Bank, Connaught Place Branch, Central Bank of India, Parliament Street Branch, State Bank of India, Parliament Street and Connaught Circus Branches and Bank of Baroda, Connaught Place Branch and how many applications out of above have been rejected by the above mentioned banks and what are the grounds of the rejection of the applications?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) & (b) As per Reserve Bank of India's guidelines, advances upto two vehicles are provided to small road transport operators at a concessional rate of interest of 12.5 per cent per annum. The terms relating to margin and security are also comparatively softer for these borrowers. These terms and conditions which are uniform throughout the country are as under:—

(i) *Margin*:—For credit limits upto and inclusive of Rs. 25,000 no margin is required. A margin of 15 to 25 per cent has been prescribed for credit limits exceeding Rs. 25,000.

(ii) *Security norms*:—For credit limits upto and inclusive of Rs. 25,000 hypothecation of assets created out of loan (i.e. vehicle) is sufficient. Banks have been advised not to ask for collateral security/third party guarantee of Rs. 25,000. For credit limits in excess of Rs. 25,000 banks have to determine security on the merits of each case. Proposals otherwise viable are not to be turned down by banks merely for want of collateral security or third party guarantee. If mortgage is necessary, an equitable mortgage instead of registered mortgage will suffice wherever possible.

(c) Punjab National Bank has reported that it had received seven applications for vehicle loans during the year 1988 in various branches of the bank in Connaught Place. All these applications were sanctioned loans and no proposal was rejected during the year.

Central Bank of India has reported that it had sanctioned loans to 14 eligible borrowers for purchase of transport vehicles during the period from September, 1985 to December, 1988. No application has been rejected by its Parliament Street Branch.

State Bank of India has reported that no applications were received at Parliament Street and Connaught Circus Branches of the bank for transport finance and there were no cases of rejection.

Bank of Baroda has reported that it does not have any branch in Connaught Place. However, its branches in Connaught Circus have not received any application for sanction of credit facilities for purchase of commercial vehicles during the last six months.

सी०आर०पी०एफ० और बी०एस०एफ० में मुसलमानों की नियुक्ति

3436. **श्री मौलाना असद मदनी :** क्या गृह मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि जनवरी, 1987 से 31 दिसम्बर, 1988 के दौरान सी० आर० पी० एफ० और बी० एस० एफ० में कांस्टेबल के तौर पर अल्पसंख्यक समुदाय (मुसलमान) के कुल कितने व्यक्ति नियुक्त किये गये और इस संबंध में पूर्ण ब्यौरा क्या है ?

कार्मिक लोक शिकायत और पेंशन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री तथा गृह मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री पी० चिदम्बरम्) : केन्द्रीय रिजर्व पुलिस बल और सीमा सुरक्षा बल में कांस्टेबलों के पदों पर भर्तियां योग्यता के आधार पर की जाती हैं, न कि समुदाय, धर्म जाति के आधार पर। चूंकि कांस्टेबलों की भर्ती से संबंधित धर्म-वार आंकड़े रखने की कोई आवश्यकता नहीं है, अतः समुदायवार सूचना देना संभव नहीं हैं।

Reduction in tax on medicine

3437. SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that tax on medicine is 63 paise per rupee and this is the reason for the high cost of drugs to consumers as has been brought out by the Indian Drug Maunfacturers' Association in their circular dated the 13th January, 1989 addressed to Members of Parliament; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to reduce the taxes on drugs, so as to make them available to the common man at a cheaper rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) The central excise duty on medicines varies from zero to 15.75 per cent *ad valorem*. In addition, taxes such as sales tax are levied by the State Governments and other authorities. The incidence of duties levied by the Central Government on drugs and medicines manufactured in the country is not very high. There is no proposal at present to reduce the taxes on drugs and medicines.

Payment of dues to the employees of the Lakshmi Commercial Bank

3438. SHRI T. R. BALU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any cases of employees of the Lakshmi Commercial Bank who retired from the said Bank before its take over and merger with the Canara Bank and have not yet been paid the terminal benefits;

(b) if so, what are the names of such employees and the reasons for such inordinate delay in payment of such dues; and

(c) by when these employees are likely to be paid their dues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and to the extent available will be laid on the Table of the House.

Central assistance for providing irrigation facilities in Tribal areas

3439. SHRI BAIKUNTHA NATH SAHU: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government have any plan to provide irrigation facilities in the tribal areas in the country on priority basis; and